

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 30, 2004. Claims 20, 26, 36, 39-41, 44, and 46-48 are presented for examination, of which Claims 20, 26, and 46 are in independent form. Claims 20, 26, and 46 have been amended to define Applicants' invention more clearly. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicants have amended independent Claims 20, 26, and 46 to more clearly recite the feature of the present invention which distinguishes it from the cited prior art. Specifically, independent Claims 20, 26, and 46 have been amended to clearly recite that in a communication system of the present invention, a controller is arranged to set a logical connection between a source node and one or more destination nodes and notify the source node and the one or more destination nodes the logical connection, and the source node is arranged to transfer each segment data with information for identifying the logical connection notified by the controller to the one or more destination nodes.

The above-described feature of the present invention is not taught by any of the cited references Hasegawa, Malik and Kawasaki. In the Office Action, the Examiner states that the reference of Hasegawa does not disclose a controller setting a logical connection between source node and destination nodes and that the reference of Kawasaki discloses to set line information for each of lines L1-L3. The reference of Kawasaki discloses in Fig. 1 a facsimile apparatus which has available three lines L1-L3, and the line information is a phone number of each line, which is transmitted to a receiving side (column 27, lines 27-45). The reference of Kawasaki therefore fails to teach a source node which transmits logical connection

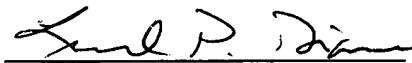
information notified by*- a controller which sets the logical connection. The reference of Malik is relied on as only the prior art which teaches to divide data into a plurality of segment data to be transmitted.

In view of the above, none of the cited references teach the source node functioning together with the controller as recited in the amended independent Claims 20, 26, and 46, and those references therefore, even when each taken alone or in combination, do not teach the present invention recited in the amended independent claims. Accordingly, it is submitted that independent claims 20, 26 and 46 are allowable. Similarly, claims 36, 39, 41, 44, 47 and 48, which are dependent on one or another of claims 20, 26 and 46 are also allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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